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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/629,204	07/31/2000	Kamran Uz Zaman	690-009312-US(PAR)D/99836	5766
7590	10/20/2004		EXAMINER KAO, CHIH CHENG G	
Kevin P Correll Perman & Green LLP 425 Post Road Fairfield, CT 06430			ART UNIT 2882	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 10/20/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/629,204

Applicant(s)

ZAMAN ET AL.

Examiner

Chih-Cheng Glen Kao

Art Unit

2882

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 July 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 July 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings were received on July 23, 2004. These drawings are acceptable.

Claim Objections

2. Claim 24 is objected to because of the following informality, which appears to be a minor draft error.

In the following format (location of objection; suggestion for correction), the following suggestion may obviate the objection: (claim 24, line 3, "comprising:{PRIVATE}"; deleting "{PRIVATE}").

For purposes of examination, the claim has been treated as such. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 9, 11-13, 20, and 24-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. (US Patent 5157463) in view of Herbert et al. (US Patent 5,352,329).

4. Regarding claims 1 and 24-26, Brown et al. discloses a system and method comprising an illumination source (Fig. 2, #13), at least one optical sensor camera (Fig. 2, #16) providing a band of captured illumination with gray level picture data of a plurality of distinguishable pixels which are darker and lighter (col. 3, line 67, to col. 4, line 6), and a controller for determining a ratio of a number of distinguishable pixels to a total number of pixels in the band, the controller comprising a threshold detector for sensing defects (col. 3, lines 55-66, and col. 6, lines 1-10).

However, Brown does not disclose inspecting OPC devices for bottom edge wipe defects.

Herbert et al. teaches inspecting OPC devices for bottom edge wipe defects (col. 1 to col. 2, line 11).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Brown et al. with the inspection of OPC devices of Herbert et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to determine whether bottom edge wipe methods are successful and reduce defects that may cause problems such as interference with charging devices or developer housing (col. 1, lines 30-40, and col. 2, lines 1-11) as implied from Herbert et al.

5. Regarding claims 11, 20, and 27, Brown et al. further discloses illuminating (Fig. 2, #13), capturing illumination (Fig. 2, #16), processing data (Fig. 2, #17), and classifying based upon a comparison of the captured reflected illumination with a threshold level to compare to a predetermined ratio (col. 3, lines 60-66).

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6. Regarding claims 4 and 12, Brown et al. further discloses an emitter (Fig. 2, #13), which would necessarily emit electromagnetic radiation of at least one wavelength due to characteristics of light.

7. Regarding claim 6, Brown et al. further discloses a data storage area to store predetermined threshold values and classification results (Figs. 1 and 2, #17).

8. Regarding claims 8 and 9, Brown et al. further discloses a visual display monitoring device for alerting a user (Figs. 1 and 2, #19).

9. Regarding claim 13, Brown et al. would necessarily digitize the reflected illumination (Fig. 3, #69, and Fig. 1, #17) so one can process signals on a computer.

10. Claims 2, 3, 5, 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as respectively applied to claims 1 and 20 above, and further in view of Roy et al. (US Patent 6118540).

Brown et al. as modified above suggests a method and device as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose a light emitting diode (LED), laser, visible light source, or CCD camera.

Roy et al. teaches an LED (col. 2, line 53), laser (col. 2, lines 60-64), visible light source (col. 2, lines 51-53), or CCD camera (col. 2, lines 38).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the method and device of Brown et al. as modified above with the LED, laser, visible light source, or CCD of Roy et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate these components to better perform computer vision analysis with a single camera (col. 2, lines 46-49) as implied by Roy et al.

11. Claims 7, 15, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as respectively applied to claims 1 and 11 above, and further in view of Maeda et al. (US Patent 5153444).

12. Regarding claim 7, Brown et al. as modified above suggests a system as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose a threshold detector comprising an array of pixels and a pixel counter.

Maeda et al. teaches a threshold detector comprising an array of pixels and a pixel counter (col. 10, lines 5-35).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Brown et al. as modified above with the pixel counter for the array of pixels of Maeda et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate it to better count the number of defective pixels to see if it reaches a preset value and indicates a defect as implied from Maeda et al. (col. 10, lines 27-50).

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13. Regarding claims 15 and 16 and for purposes of being concise, Brown et al. as modified above suggests a method as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose comparing with a gray pixel count.

Maeda et al. teaches comparing with a gray (Abstract, line 2) pixel count (col. 11, lines 34-37).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the method of Brown et al. as modified above with the pixel count of Maeda et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to better determine defects (col. 11, lines 34-41) as implied from Maeda et al.

14. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as applied to claim 8 above, and further in view of Langley (US Patent Application Publication 2001/0012392).

Brown et al. as modified above suggests a system as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose an audio monitor.

Langley teaches an audio monitor (Page 2, Paragraph 24).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the system of Brown et al. as modified above with the audio monitor of Langley, since one would be motivated to incorporate it to better warn the user of defects (Page 2, Paragraph 24) as implied from Langley.

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15. Claims 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Lindow et al. (US Patent 4748335).

Brown et al. as modified above suggests a method as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose analog signals from the captured illumination.

Lindow et al. teaches analog signals from the captured illumination (col. 1, lines 20-31).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the device of Brown et al. as modified above with the analog signals of Lindow et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to more easily convert signals from a camera to a output device such as a CRT (col. 1, lines 20-31) as shown by Lindow et al.

16. Claim 17 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Nakagawa et al. (US Patent 4148065).

Brown et al. as modified above suggests a method as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose comparing with a predetermined analog voltage level.

Nakagawa et al. teaches comparing with a predetermined analog voltage level (Fig. 4, #56A, and col. 5, lines 37-39).

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the method of Brown et al. as modified above with the

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comparison of analog voltage levels of Nakagawa et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to make the video signal more intelligible (col. 5, lines 39-50).

17. Claims 18, 19, and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Brown et al. in view of Herbert et al. as applied to claim 11 above, and further in view of Kanno et al. (US Patent 6069971).

For purposes of being concise, Brown et al. as modified above suggests a method as recited above.

However, Brown et al. does not disclose classifying by acceptable, non-acceptable, or quasi-acceptable.

Kanno et al. teaches classifying by acceptable, non-acceptable, or quasi-acceptable (Fig. 8, "ST109", "ST110", and "ST111").

It would have been obvious, to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the method of Brown et al. as modified above with the classifying of Kanno et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to ensure that a product is within tolerable levels of quality as implied from Kanno et al. (col. 9, lines 3-23) and to improve work efficiency as implied from Kanno et al. (col. 9, lines 3-23) by having the designer further look at quasi-acceptable objects only rather than all objects that are not acceptable.

Response to Arguments

18. Objections to the drawings and claims, as well as the rejection of claim 6 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, have been withdrawn in light of the replacement drawings and amendments filed July 23, 2004.

19. Applicant's arguments filed July 23, 2004, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that the situation dealt with by Brown et al. and the teachings of Brown et al. for dealing with his situation differ from the situation dealt with by the present invention and the teachings of the present invention. The Examiner disagrees with the above statement based on the following reasoning. Brown et al. is concerned with the inspection of quality by detecting defects. The technique of Brown et al., for detection of defects, can also be applied to the detection of defects of Herbert et al. As disclosed by Brown et al., inspection for defects is normally done visually by someone specially trained and certified (col. 1, lines 28-30). However, visual determination makes it very hard to get accurate and repeatable results (col. 1, lines 35-37). These problems may be overcome by using machine vision (col. 2, line 55). As taught by Herbert et al., inspection for defects in OPC devices is done visually (col. 1 to col. 2, line 11). From these teachings and disclosures, it would have been obvious, to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, to modify the systems and methods of Brown et al. with the OPC device inspections of Herbert et al., since one would be motivated to incorporate this to better detect the defects in OPC devices.

Therefore, the situation dealt with by Brown et al. and the teachings of Brown et al. for dealing with his situation have similarities with the situation dealt with by the present invention and the teachings of the present invention, those similarities including detection of defects. Thus, the rejections under 35 USC 103 based on the cited art have not been overcome by Applicants' arguments, and the claims now present in the instant application remain unpatentable.

Conclusion

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chih-Cheng Glen Kao whose telephone number is (571) 272-2492. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F (9 am to 5 pm).


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ed Glick can be reached on (571) 272-2490. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



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